

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the first paragraph of this application as follows:

This is a divisional of Application No. 10/144,028, filed May 14, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,669,982, which is a divisional of Application No. 09/669,725, filed on September 26, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,410,080, and claims the benefit of priority from the prior Japanese Patent Application No. 11-272327, filed September 27, 1999, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A liquid film forming method of dropping a liquid from a dropping nozzle or dropping nozzles of a dropping unit onto a substrate, and providing relative movement between the dropping unit and the substrate to change a dropping point of the substrate while keeping the liquid dropping on the substrate, so as to form a liquid film on the substrate,

wherein a change amount of a contact angle of the liquid to the substrate is within ± 2 degrees during a time from 5 seconds to 60 seconds after the dropping of the liquid when a minute amount of the liquid is dropped onto a minute area of the substrate.

12. (Withdrawn) The liquid film forming method according to claim 11, wherein control of the change amount of the contact angle of the liquid dropped onto the substrate to the substrate within ± 2 degrees is attained by adjusting the ratio of a surfactant to a solvent and an application agent constituting the liquid.

13. (Withdrawn) A liquid for application used in a liquid film forming method of dropping the liquid adjusted to be spread into a give amount on a substrate to be

processed from a dropping nozzle or dropping nozzles of a dropping unit onto the substrate, and then moving the dropping unit and the substrate relatively while keeping the liquid dropping on the substrate, so as to form a liquid film on the substrate, comprising a solvent, an application agent, and a surfactant,

wherein the ratio of the surfactant to the solvent and the application agent is adjusted in such a manner that when a minute amount of the liquid is dropped onto a minute area of the substrate, a change amount of a contact angle of the liquid to the substrate is within ± 2 degrees during a time from 5 seconds to 60 seconds after the dropping of the liquid.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A liquid film forming method of dropping a liquid ~~adjusted to be spread into a given amount~~ on a substrate to be processed from a dropping nozzle or dropping nozzles of a dropping unit onto the substrate, and then moving the dropping unit and the substrate relatively while keeping the liquid dropping on the substrate, so as to form a liquid film on the substrate,

wherein the relative movement of the dropping unit and the substrate is composed of straight movement along a file direction in which the dropping unit passes from one end side of the substrate through an upper space ~~[[of]]~~ over the substrate to the other end side of the substrate, and movement along a rank direction ~~outside the substrate, or is composed of spiral movement in which the dropping unit goes from the~~

~~substantial center of the substrate to the periphery thereof or from the periphery of the substrate to the substantial center thereof, and~~

~~relationship between the distance from a dropping start position along the rank direction to a boundary step of the edge of the substrate and that from a dropping finish position along the rank direction to the boundary step of the edge thereof is set so that the former distance is large and the latter distance is small, and the distance between an end of the liquid film along the file direction and the boundary step of the edge is set so as to gradually become smaller from the dropping start position to the dropping finish position~~

a distance between a dropping start position and the adjacent edge of the substrate is relatively larger than a distance between a dropping end position and the adjacent edge of the substrate along the rank direction, and the distance between a liquid film and the adjacent edge of the substrate along the file direction is set so as to gradually become smaller from the dropping start position to the dropping end position.

16. (Currently Amended) The liquid film forming method according to claim 15, wherein the distance between the end of the liquid film and the ~~boundary step of the edge~~ adjacent edge of the substrate is decided dependently on such a distance that the liquid flows on the substrate after the dropping of the liquid on the substrate.

17. (Currently Amended) The liquid film forming method according to claim 15, wherein the distance between the end of the liquid film and the ~~boundary step~~